

***Rodriguez also to announce \$6.4 million award for UTSA program***

(San Antonio, TX) - Today, Wednesday, January 2nd, Congressman Bennie Thompson, Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security, will join Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez for a briefing and multi-million dollar funding announcement for UTSA's cybersecurity program. Following the UTSA visit, the Congressmen will receive a briefing at the San Antonio-Bexar County Emergency Operations Center at Brooks City-Base, and will then meet with border community officials and law enforcement representatives.

"I am proud to have the opportunity to introduce Chairman Thompson to the work being done by UTSA in regards to cybersecurity - UTSA is a national leader in this field and I am committed to supporting and helping to grow the work they are doing to support our nation's homeland security efforts," **said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez, a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security.**

"I know the Chairman will also be impressed with the level of coordination between the City and County when it comes to emergency preparedness."

The Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) is the research and operational component of the Information Assurance program at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The CIAS is designed to leverage San Antonio's Infrastructure Assurance and Security (IAS) strengths as part of the solution to the nation's Homeland Security needs and deficit of IAS talent and resources. The United States National Security Agency (NSA) has designated the University of Texas at San Antonio a National Center of Excellence in Information Assurance.

The San Antonio and Bexar County Emergency Operations Center brought together the offices of Emergency Management into a new 35,000-square-foot joint use facility. The facility houses City, County, regional, state and federal departments and personnel for the purpose of gathering, evaluating and distributing critical information, and implementing responsive actions during an emergency or in the event of a natural or man-made or disaster.

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